GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7494
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2002
SEISMIC SURVEY AT EXPLORATION SITES
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the area/blocks where seismic survey has shown positive results for exploitation of crude oil and natural gas and where drilling for exploration is going on or yet to take place;

(b) whether the work relating to drilling has been entrusted to foreign firms besides ONGC and OIL;

(c) if so, the terms and conditions on which exploration of hydrocarbons has been entrusted to foreign firm; and

(d) the estimated availability of hydrocarbons in areas/blocks entrusted to ONGC, OIL and foreign firms?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a): In the recent past, exploration work has been undertaken in various areas in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttranchal and West Bengal as also in East & West offshore.During the X Plan period it is proposed that around 871 exploratory wells would be drilled in the country.

(b) & (c): In order to attract investment and technology, Government since 1991 had offered exploration blocks under six pre-New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) rounds and two NELP rounds inviting companies and consortia, both Indian and foreign.A total of 27 pre-NELP Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) and 47 NELP PSCs have so far been signed.Broadly, the PSCs envisage the availability of fiscal incentives, such as customs duty exemption and tax holiday; the general applicability of Indian laws and the sharing of production, in a pre-determined bidded tranches.

(d): The balance recoverable reserves of hydrocarbons (O+OEG) in the country as on 1.4.2001 is about 1449 Million Metric Tonne.